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# Community Wildfire Protection Planning in the West

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# Community Wildfire Protection Planning in the West

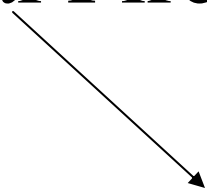
- Policy and Legislative Background
- Problems with Definitions and Lists
- CWPP Development
- CWPP Challenges
- Summary of Western Progress
- Take-Home Messages

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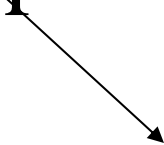


# Policy & Legislative Background

National Fire Plan (2000)



10-Year Comprehensive Strategy (2002)



Healthy Forest Restoration Act (2003)

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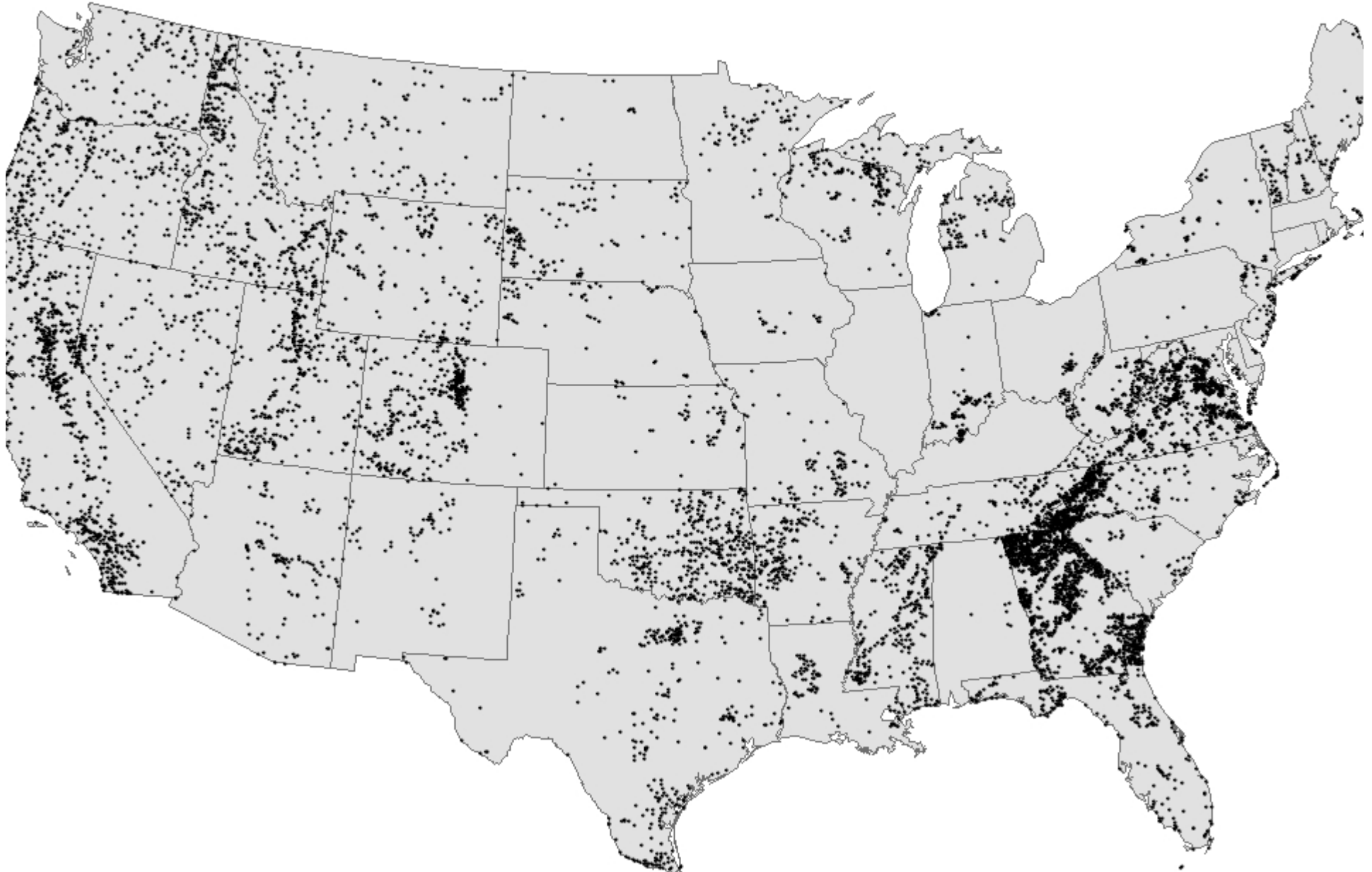


# Problems with Definitions and Lists

- Communities at Risk
  - What is a community?
  - What is risk? How much risk?
  - Federal Register List 2001
  - NASF Field Guidance 2003

# Designated Communities at Risk from Wildland Fire

This map of designated communities at risk from wildland fire was prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey from lists submitted by states and refined by the federal government to include communities near federal lands. The Geological Survey matched the lists with the Geographic Names Information System.





# More Problems with Definitions

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans
  - What about pre-HFRA plans?
  - What about other versions of fire planning?
- Role for communities, local governments, foresters, Fire Safe Councils?



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# CWPP Development

- Minimum Requirements (HFRA)
  - Collaborative process
  - Prioritized fuels reduction
  - Structural ignitability
  - Approval of plan by local government, local fire department, and state body responsible for fire management.

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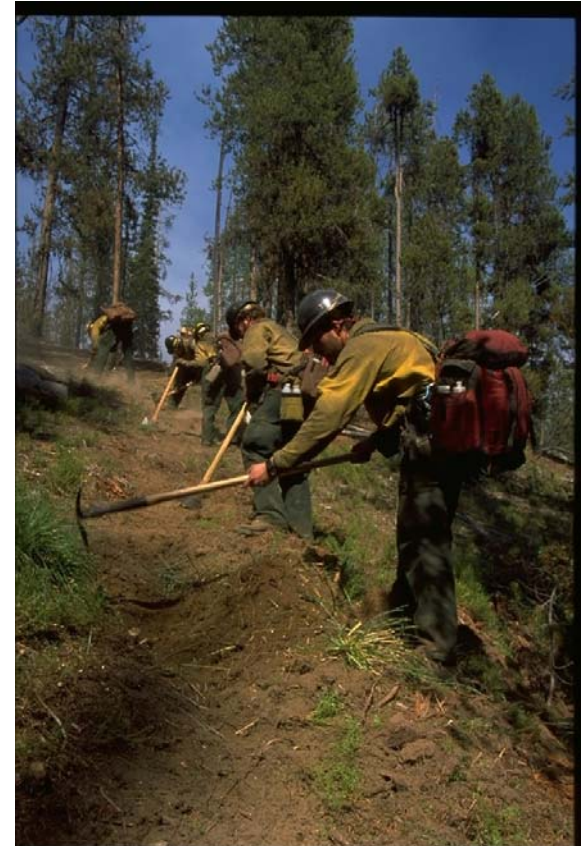


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# CWPP Challenges

- Questions of scale
- Community capacity and motivation
- Resource availability at the state level
- Resources for implementation & unrealized expectations



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# Summary of Western Progress

But first . . . a few caveats . . .

- Comparing States is like comparing apples and oranges;
- Definitions, processes, and methods vary across States;
- Many states have plans that aren't HFRA compliant but still serve to protect communities;
- There is no 1:1 ratio for CWPPs: protected communities.

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# Summary of Western Progress

- All states have finalized or are in the process of finalizing their CAR list; many have begun regular updates.
- 329 CWPPs have been completed across the West as of today, amounting to more than 2,000 protected communities.

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# Montana

- 622 Communities at Risk;
- 14 CWPPs completed & approved, and 25 more in progress;
- When approved, the state will have 46% of its CARs covered by a CWPP.

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# Take-Home Messages

- The collaborative process of CWPP development is in itself a success.
- CWPP development gives communities an opportunity to influence where and how federal agencies implement fuels reduction projects.

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# Take-Home Messages

- There are multiple and diverse approaches to successful community fire planning.
- Funding for CWPP development remains a challenge, with many calling for increased and dedicated funds for the task.

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